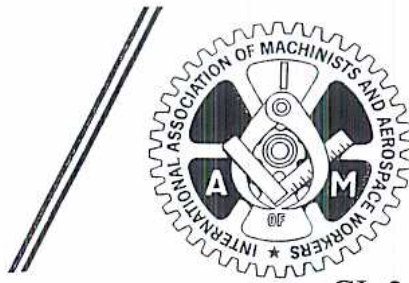


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

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GL-2 Woodworkers

January 8, 2008

Subject: ILO Core Labor Standards

Ben Gunneberg
General Secretary
PEFC Council
17 Rue des Girondins
L-1626 Hollerich
Luxembourg

Dear Ben:

PEFC requires all certification schemes to be in compliance with a set of labor standards commonly referred to as the ILO core labor standards. In countries where these standards have been ratified and codified PEFC assumes that the certification systems will be in compliance. In countries where the ILO core labor standards have not been ratified the burden to insure compliance falls on the certification system. Since the US has not ratified all of the ILO Conventions which comprise the ILO core labor standards, certification schemes in the US seeking PEFC endorsement must develop systems to insure compliance.

The American Tree Farm System and the IMAAW have put in place a structure (A Memorandum Of Understanding) to address these PEFC requirements. The MOU offers a unique approach to grant access to the ILO core labor standards to both the relatively small number of employees of contractors and to the larger number of contractors who currently are excluded from the US National Labor Relations Act (the governing labor relations law of the US). The MOU:

- Establishes a database of all contractors who work for ATFS members.
- Creates a structure to educate them about core labor standards and safe work practices along with other elements of certified work requirements and
- Ultimately removes any contractor who does not honor the ILO core labor standards from the ATFS list of preferred contractors.

As such, the MOU represents the ability of the parties to put in place policies, processes, and programs to extend the ILO core labor standards to a group of workers not currently covered by US law. This process should permit the workers and employers who routinely do business with ATFS members to obtain the standard required by PEFC for certification systems in countries that have not ratified the ILO core labor standards. Upon successful conclusion of the SFI labor standard revision, the two systems working together should insure that all forest workers who handle certified forest fiber have the protections of the ILO core labor standards.

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The IAMAW supports this approach since it takes significant steps towards extending the ILO core labor standards to a group of workers who do not now have such access and represents an innovative approach by a group of small forest landowners who do not have a formal employment relationship with workers.

Since this is an experimental process, the IAMAW reserves the right to re-instate its original objections to the ATFS certification system in future years should this approach not adequately extend ILO core labor standard coverage to this specific group of workers to the standards required by PEFC.

Sincerely,



Rodney A. Kelty
Administrative Assistant

RAK:mj

cc: Jaroslav Tymrak, PEFC
Bob Simpson, American Tree Farm System